

Thomas Rich House
Old County Road
Truro
Barnstable County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-762

HABS
MASS,
1-TRU,
45-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

THOMAS RICH HOUSE

HABS No. MA-762

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MASS,
1-TRU,
45-

Location East side of Old County Road, Truro, Barnstable County,
Massachusetts.

Present Owner Mr. A. G. Marshall.

Present Occupant Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Marshall.

Present use Permanent residence.

Significance This is a Greek Revival house, with ell, and with entrance
in this ell. This is located in the area of the proposed Cape Cod
National Sea Shore.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Original and subsequent owners Information received from Mr. Silas
Clark, Wellfleet Attorney, and permanent resident on Pamet Point
Road not far from this structure, shows that the first known deed
for dwelling house was from Thos. Rich to Edward T. Rich on March
17, 1855. After this came various owners, Richard T. Cobb, Joshua
Higgins, Minnie F. Ryder, Arthur L. Cobb, John T. Thompson, et al.
John T. Thompson's widow, Sally C. Thompson, sold property to
Edwin C. Phillips after 1907, and he sold to Grace G. Marshall.
Her heirs were Isabelle M. and Alexander G. Marshall, present owner.
Isabelle released her share to him, and now Mr. Marshall and his
wife own by entirety.

Date of erection Dr. Ernest Allen Cornally, HABS Architect and Historian,
in a study of Cape Cod houses in 1959, has dated this house at
about 1850.

Architect Unknown.

Builder Unknown.

Original plans None known to exist.

Alterations and additions A modern bath room has been added to the west
end of the original kitchen. Porches have been added to the south
side of the house, dates unknown. Interior appears to be original
with minor alterations.

Historical events connected with structure None of importance have been
uncovered to date.


Important old views None found to date.

Sources of information Mr. Silas Clark, Wellfleet Attorney; Ernest Allen Connally, HABS Architect and Historian.

Likely sources not yet investigated

Truro Town records; Barnstable County Records at Barnstable, Mass., but these are incomplete prior to 1827 because of a fire that destroyed many of the old records, including some of the Register of Deeds books. The owners of the property were not available when the house was inspected.

Prepared by


Charles S. Dotts, Architect
Cape Cod Survey I, HABS,
Sept. 3, 1960

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

GENERAL STATEMENT

Architectural interest and merit This is a Greek Revival house with ell, with entrance in pedimented end. This is dated about 1850 and is one of similar Greek Revival houses which were built on Cape Cod during this period. This house is located within the area of the proposed Cape Cod National Sea Shore.

Condition of fabric Good condition, owners have kept this in good repair.

EXTERIOR

Overall dimensions 24 x 44.

Foundations Brick.

Wall construction Frame, with 3 x 8 corner posts, and 4 x 6 girts or plates, horizontal sheathing boards covered with white painted clapboards.

Porches, stoops Open concrete porch, 12 x 22 at south side of the house in front of the entrance. Screened in wood porch, 16 x 16, located on the west side of the south ell. These are both apparently later additions.

Chimneys Two, one over main part of house, other is located over the west end of the house.

Openings - doorways and doors Main door at the south is a 4 panel Greek Revival door flanked by 5 sash side lights and wood pilasters. Other exterior doors are 4 panelled.

windows and shutters Probably original windows of 6/6 lights in double hung sash, first floor and with 6/6 and 2/2 double hung sash on second floor. Louvered shutters, painted black, at all windows.

Roof - shape, covering Pitched, gable ends, composition covering.

cornice, eaves. Wood box cornice, with Greek Revival returns at gable ends. Greek Revival pilasters (wood) at corners of house.

dormers none.

INTERIOR

Floor plans The main part of the house runs east and west with a pedimented front ell extending to the south, from the east side of the house. The main entrance is located in the south end, ~~west~~, of this ell. The entrance is flanked by a two windowed living room on the east and by a one windowed room on the west. Behind these rooms are a small east room, bed room, with a dining room next to it and with a modern kitchen next to the dining room. A pantry and bath have been added to the west end of the kitchen. The stairs to the second floor lead off of a small entry located to the rear of the half-size west room. An exterior door leads off the entry. On the second floor, there are two small bedrooms on the south and one larger bedroom and garret on the north.

Stairways One, to second floor, narrow, steep run, 9 risers.

Flooring Random width (9" to 14") apparently butt jointed, painted.

Wall and ceiling finish Plastered and papered walls, paneled wainscoting under windows in east room on first floor and in northeast room first floor.

Doorways and doors 4 panel doors, apparently original.

Trim Plain trim with plain square blocks at the top of the windows. This trim in the east room, first floor encloses the wainscoting under the windows. Good fireplace wall paneling on the west wall of the east room, with a 12 sash china cupboard also on this wall. Wainscoting in north east room is made with two 18" boards. Second floor fireplace has plain mantle.

Hardware Butt hinges, apparently original hardware.

Lighting Electric.

Heating Hot air floor furnace in east room; two fireplaces, one in use in east room, first floor and one plastered over in the north room, second floor.

SITE

Orientation House is on lee of hill, facing south in a very pleasant setting.


Enclosures Small post and rail fence separates west lawn and drive. Same type of fence at the south of the house separates the south lawn from a flower garden.

Outbuildings Shingled shed and shingled garage located about 50' north of the house.

Walks, driveways Brick walk leads from a surfaced "U" driveway at the west, to the house.

Landscaping Well trimmed lawn, shrubbery and trees. Flower garden is located south of the house. The lot presents a very near appearance in a pleasant setting.

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